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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9796  
INFO RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 1556  
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 8547  
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 6784  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 2910  
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI 2481  
RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI 9189  
RUEHMT/AMCONSUL MONTREAL 0013

UNCLAS COLOMBO 000417

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EEB/TRA/OTP BRIAN SILER  
STATE PLS PASS TO USICAO

E.O 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: SRI LANKA: PLANS TO RATIFY THE MONTREAL CONVENTION OF 1999

REF: STATE 27782

¶1. (U) Sri Lanka's Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) intends to ratify the Montreal Convention of 1999 by the end of 2009. CAA Director General, Mr. Parakrama Dissanayake, told Econoff that the CAA's proposed national civil aviation policy addresses its intent to ratify the Convention. The CAA is drafting the country's first civil aviation policy which is being coordinated with major stakeholders in Sri Lanka's aviation industry, including the Ministry of Ports and Aviation and Sri Lankan Airlines. All are in favor of the ratification of the Convention.

¶2. (U) According to the Deputy Director of CAA's Air Transport and Legal Affairs division, Rayan Wannappa, the draft aviation policy will be submitted to the Cabinet in late April 2009. The CAA intends to have the provisions of the convention, with the appropriate applicable domestic legislation, in place by end of ¶2009. The draft policy is available on the CAA's website, <http://www.caa.lk>. Dissanayake and Wannappa reported they will continue to advise the embassy of the status of the policy and how the government plans to implement the Convention.

Blake